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Note verbale dated 18 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2017, and transmits herewith a communiqué issued by the Coordinating Bureau on 18 April 2017 in relation to the inclusion of the issue of human rights and the maintenance of international peace and security in the agenda of the Security Council (see annex).

In this regard, the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau respectfully requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 18 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the inclusion of the issue of human rights and the maintenance of international peace and security in the agenda of the Security Council

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms the positions agreed upon by the Heads of State or Government at the seventeenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 17 to 18 September 2016, as follows:

1. Reiterates its concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through addressing issues which traditionally fall within the competence of the latter organs, and the attempts to enter areas of norm-setting, administrative and budgetary matters and establishing definitions which fall within the purview of the Assembly, further expresses its concern over the constant attempts by the Security Council to use certain thematic issues under its consideration, including those related to human rights, to expand its mandate into areas which do not pose a threat to international peace and security, and further urges the Council to restrict its mandate in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination, and underlines that democracy, sustainable development and the respect of all human rights, civil and political; and economic, social and cultural rights, in their universal, indivisible and interdependent character, including the right to development, are all closely related and mutually reinforcing;

3. Reaffirms that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world, without distinction between developed and developing countries, in compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter;

4. Opposes and rejects ongoing attempts to shift issues under the agenda of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council to that of the Security Council and the encroachment by the latter on the functions and powers of the Assembly;

5. Reaffirms that all organs and bodies of the United Nations should only carry out those tasks which are established in their respective mandates, in that regard, reiterates that the principal organs of the United Nations have distinct and separate roles in accordance with the Charter;

6. Opposes the ongoing practice by the Security Council of dealing with human rights issues which do not pose threat to international peace and security, and calls upon the Security Council to respect its mandate as outlined in the Charter;

7. Rejects the use of the Security Council as a tool to pursue national political interests and agendas, aggravating rather than alleviating situations, contrary

to its mission enshrined in the Charter, and stresses the necessity of non-selectivity, impartiality and accountability in the work of the Council, and the need for the Council to keep strictly within the powers and functions accorded to it under the Charter;

8. Rejects the ongoing practice of the Security Council of dealing with human rights issues in pursuit of certain States' political objectives.